

## Why Do We Care?

In response to dwindling bee and pollinator populations, the Ohio Department of Transportation in partnership with Pheasants Forever is promoting roadside restoration of Native Ohio Prairie along state owned right of way.

Citizens and other agencies are encouraged to use information provided in this brochure to establish habitat elsewhere.



Photo by Dianne Kahal-Berman, ODOT

Bees and other pollinators are disappearing at alarming rates. Hive loss in Ohio during the winter of 2014 was 60 to 70 percent, per the Ohio Department of Agriculture's statistics.

Bees are dying off for a multitude of reasons that include the use of neonicotinoids and viruses. However, lack of food is a major cause. Farms growing acres of one type of crop do not provide food or enough food for pollinators throughout the season.

Eighty percent of all fruits and vegetables rely on pollination. By restoring habitat along roadways, ODOT intends to use public land responsibly to protect public welfare as well as eventually to reduce mowing costs statewide.

**Did you know?** Bees can fly 2.5 miles comfortably to gather food.

**Bee Patient!** Habitats take three years to establish.



Affix  
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Ohio Department of Transportation – District 9

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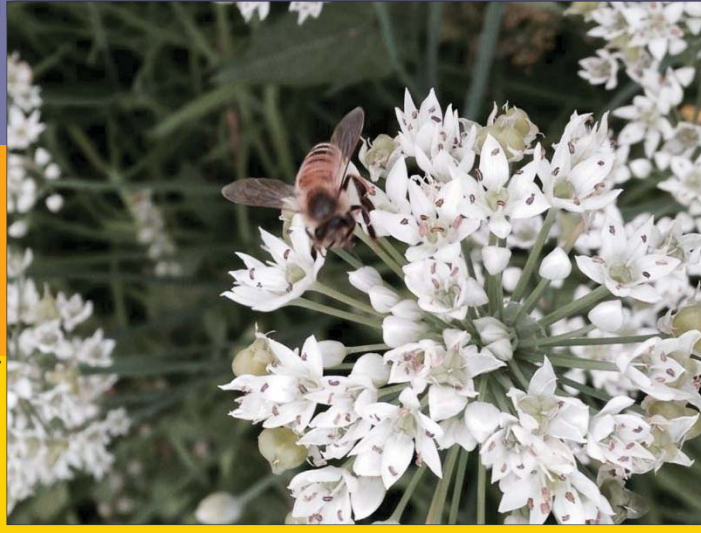


Mail to:

# Saving Ohio's POLLINATORS

## OCPM Pilot Project

**Establishing** Ohio native prairie grasses & wildflowers in southern Ohio by **planting** Dry Mesic Mix along the S.R. 207 corridor in Ross County



*Feed them so they may  
continue to feed us!*



More Information?  
Phone: 740.774.9050

## Seed Mix & Bloom Time (in blue)

Note: % by seed (if all seed were the same size) is Forbs 62.45% and Grass/Grasslike 37.55%

	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Schizachyrium scoparium <b>Little Bluestem</b>										
Elymus canadensis <b>Nodding Wild Rye</b>										
Sorghastrum nutans <b>Indian Grass</b>										
Echinacea purpurea <b>Purple Coneflower</b>										
baptisia alba (macrophylla) <b>White Wild Indigo</b>										
Ratibida pinnata <b>Yellow Coneflower/ Grey-Headed C</b>										
Coreopsis lanceolata <b>Lanceleaf Coreopsis</b>										
Asclepias tuberosa <b>Butterfly Weed</b>										
Liatris spicata <b>Dense Blazingstar</b>										
Lespedeza capitata <b>Roundheaded Bushclover</b>										
Aster novae-angliae <b>New England Aster</b>										
Coreopsis tripteris <b>Tall Coreopsis</b>										
Rudbeckia speciosa sullivantii <b>Showy Black-eyed Susan</b>										
Silphium terebinthinaceum <b>Prairie Dock</b>										
Solidago rigida <b>Stiff Goldenrod</b>										
Monarda fistulosa <b>Wild Bergamot</b>										
Aster laevis <b>Smooth Aster</b>										
Rudbeckia hirta <b>Black-eyed Susan</b>										
Asclepias incarnata <b>Rose Milkweed</b>										
% by seed weight										
Height										
18 in. - 3 ft.										
3 - 6 ft.										
3 - 8 ft.										
2 - 5 ft.										
2 - 4 ft.										
3 - 5 ft.										
1-2.5 ft.										
18 in. - 2 ft.										
3 - 4 ft.										
2 - 4 ft.										
3 ft.										
3 - 9 ft.										
3 ft.										
3 - 8 ft.										
1 - 5 ft.										
2 - 5 ft.										
2 - 4 ft.										
2 - 3 ft.										
*Add if desired										
4 ft.										

## 4Bs: Bees, Butterflies, Birds & Beauty

### The OCPM 4B Plan

- Choose sites away from trees and bushes.
- Perform soil analysis to check for pH (5.5 to 6.5 for plant growth) and determine percentage of organic material and soil texture.
- Use glyphosate to kill weeds – apply from early spring to fall one full season before planting.
- In late fall, after November 15<sup>th</sup> or the 1<sup>st</sup> frost, plant with native Ohio genotype seed (quality seed of local origin) selected for soil type and location.
- Provide for successive, overlapped blooming of at least 3 species throughout May to November.
- Plant about 12 pounds of pure live seed (pls) per acre for no-till, and 18 pounds of pure live seed (pls) per acre for broadcast.
- Do **not** till soil; do **not** fertilize.
- Plant using either Truax No-Till Drill (contact Pheasants Forever Organization for help) or broadcast seed and then use shallow, light raking and a roller to push into ground. Seed must not be deeper than ¼ inch.
- Dry Mesic Mix: Native Ohio genotype seed will include perennial forbs, grasses and legumes. Ohio native grasses to be Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), little bluestem grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*; native cover crop and cool season grass), and possibly sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*).
- Wet Mesic Mix: Grasses may possibly include cordgrass (no more than one pound per acre) and switchgrass (very small amount; no more than ¼ pound per acre).
- During the first year, allow plantings to grow to 12”, and then mow to 6 inches (no lower) in first **growing** season to suppress weed growth. When plants stop growing, stop mowing.
- Do not mow when soil is wet from rain.
- During the second year, allow plantings to grow to 24” and then mow to 12 inches.
- Do **not** pull weeds, unless desired seed is placed on these areas immediately and stepped into ground.
- Spot kill weeds with glyphosate as necessary; spray only when wind is between 3 to 10 mph.
- Once established, mow once in November or mow to ground in early April.
- May burn in April once every three years beginning the 4<sup>th</sup> growing season rather than mow.

### Seed Information

- Contact local nurseries to obtain Ohio genotype\*\* and/or Ohio acclimated seed; information also online at <http://www.governorsresidence.ohio.gov/>
- When storing seeds, use paper bags; avoid using plastic bags as seed may have tendency to mold.
- Store seed with low and consistent humidity at temperatures less than 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

\*\* Genotype refers to seed that not only is of a particular species but has been developed under local environmental conditions, is regionally adapted and, therefore, highly sustainable.

\* Rose Milkweed is good for Monarch Butterflies; it is not good for poultry and livestock, so be careful where this is planted!